





# THE CHINA MAIL

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1894.

11.—All latrines, public and private, shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected twice daily to the satisfaction of the Board, and the owner or manager thereof shall keep on the premises adequate quantities of quicklime, and shall cause to be thrown into each bucket; or other receptacle after use a small quantity of such lime. All wood-work in such latrines shall be washed and cleaned with water to which some disinfectant supplied by the Board has been added.

12.—That a permanent Committee of three members of the Sanitary Board be appointed with full power and authority to exercise all or any of the powers or authorities vested in or exercisable by the Board under section 32 to 38 both inclusive of the Public Health Ordinance, 1883; or of those by law.

The Colonial Surgeon, Captain Superintendent of Police, and Mr. J. J. Francis were appointed to the committee under section 12, subject to the laws being approved by the Governor in Council.

Mr. Francis said if any one could give information as to the progress of the disease since the previous day.

The Colonial Surgeon—Yes, there have been about twelve deaths reported since yesterday morning and about twenty-four more cases.

The President—I have a return of the deaths reported at the Registrar-General's office to-day and that shows thirteen deaths noted as from plague.

The Colonial Surgeon said he thought the number of deaths mentioned included four that he reported the previous day. He thought the staff of Sanitary Inspectors in the central district ought to be "disbanded"; one man to go on with the work of disinfection, etc., and the other to attend to the Police Court work, because if there was only one man his would have to spend a great deal of his time at the Police Court.

The President said he had asked Mr. Crook to be present to answer any question about the drains. Mr. Crook had visited Taipingshan, where the disease prevailed.

Mr. Crook said that an entire block of thirteen houses affected five had been re-drained. Taking the whole district, he thought probably not more than ten per cent had been re-drained.

The Colonial Surgeon said all blocks at least ought to be brought under the operation of the Ordinance as soon as possible.

Mr. Francis—But in one block five out of thirteen houses attacked have been re-drained, so far as my protection.

The Colonial Surgeon—Although your own drains are good you may be poisoned by your neighbour's drains.

Mr. Crook recommended the cleaning of the drains and that disinfectants should be pointed down all the openings.

Mr. Francis asked if Mr. Crook was going to take charge under the Board of the discharging and cleaning of the drains.

The President—Certainly.

Mr. Francis said the probable proposal would be to establish a gang of men who would have nothing to do but attend to the cleaning and disinfecting of the drains of the houses in the neighbourhood; would Mr. Crook be put in charge of them?

The President—He will also have something to do with the public drains.

Mr. Francis—We have nothing to do with that. Mr. Cook is our officer. The Public Works Department has charge of the public drains. Can Mr. Crook tell us anything about the water supply?

Mr. Crook—A report is going in to the Government, to-night probably.

Mr. Francis—That is not an answer to the question of the Sanitary Board. If you refer to give the information we will know how to deal with it.

Mr. Crook said he did not think he would be justified in giving the information without leave.

Mr. Francis said he thought the sooner Mr. Crook was asked to leave the room the better.

The President said he did not think it necessary to ask Mr. Crook to leave, that by bringing his presence of great use to the Board. He asked Mr. Francis if he had any further remarks.

Mr. Francis—if I have to remark that if a Government officer comes here and is asked a question and declines to give information on such grounds as Mr. Crook has given, the sooner it is put to the better. It is one of the things that causes great mischief in this colony, every department asserting its independence and declining to give any information except through the Colonial Secretary.

The President said he was sure the Governor would desire that the fullest information should be given.

Mr. Francis—Mr. Crook is here and will not give the information. This is how the Board is treated in a crisis like the present, and the Acting Colonial Secretary endorses and supports it. Mr. Crook will give us the information he is bound to give as an officer of the Board, but any further information in his possession as an officer of another department he declines to give.

The President said he was sure Mr. Crook would give all the information he possessed.

Mr. Humphreys said he could not see any objection to the information being given.

The President—Will you kindly tell us, Mr. Crook?

Mr. Crook said he did not remember the exact quantity of water was there in the reservoirs at the end of last week, but it was being used at the rate of a million gallons a day, and if there should be no rainfall before Monday, it would be impossible to guarantee that the supply equal to the present could be maintained.

The Colonial Surgeon put a question with reference to pumping sea water into one of the tanks for flushing purposes.

Mr. Crook said nothing had been decided yet. He had been round to see what drains wanted flushing. In the event of any big drains wanting flushing they would have to fill all tank specially, but at present it was not necessary.

Mr. Francis—Can Mr. Crook tell us anything about the main drains in the western end of the town, how far they are choked or open in their lower ends, the last hundred yards or so? have been told that many of the main sewers in the western end of the town are at their lower ends exceedingly choked up, and that it would be almost impossible to clear them out by flushing.

Mr. Crook—Yes, that is so, in one or two cases, and they have not been touched on account of the resistance.

Mr. Francis—Should they be tackled and cleared?

Mr. Crook—It would take a long time.

Mr. Francis—And they could not be effectively flushed?

Mr. Crook—No.

The Colonial Surgeon—Then the best thing is to disinfest them?

Mr. Crook—Yes.

The President asked Dr. Lovell if he had any recommendation to make.

Dr. Lovell said that I have seen to-day I am the Sanitary Board, and ought at once to decide on the place where they are to be brought to a suitable hospital, having as far as can make out the incubation period of the disease, in five or six days, and after so many days have developed, it is now I should be surprised if next week the number of cases should be much increased. I don't want to put more than seventy or eighty cases on the Board, and if there are more than that number,

which I expect there will be, the sooner you get the infected built the better.

The President—The Secretary has been consulting with the Public Works Department, and he will perhaps tell the Board the result of his inquiries.

The Secretary will let the site that had been thought of, was on Pokfulam Road and pointed it out to the Board.

The ground selected was the site above Shirley, formerly proposed as a site for a new goal. It was objected to as being to the north of occupied houses, and Mr. Humphreys also took exception to it on account of its being near the Pokfulam water reservoir, as the water might become contaminated. Ultimately it was decided that the hospital should be erected at the western end of the Kennedy Road, reclamations and the ground at the other side of the Police Station should be used as a cemetery.

This concluded the business.

**FRAGRANT WATERS MURMUR.**

That the accidental discovery of the existence of Asiatic Typhus in Hongkong, broke out a month after the disease had appeared in Canton, came upon the residents here as an unpleasant surprise.

That, as the disease appears to be born of filth and insanitary surroundings, that Mr. Whitehead, by persistently keeping the political pot boiling, has gained perhaps more than most unofficial members of Council have done during his term of office.

That it must be gratifying to the sturdy fighter, after all he has done, and all he has suffered, at the hands of the great O'Brien, to find that his efforts are in a measure recognized and acknowledged.

That Dr. Lovell, who has shown up in a most creditable manner in this emergency, has now opportunity offered to very few members of his profession, of diagnosing a type of disease which fortunately is not often met with.

That although Dr Ayres states the Chinese know the disease well, the knowledge possessed by the Chinese doctors of the Tung Wah Hospital did not come very ready to the front.

That the conduct of silence and sympathy which lasted for a fortnight is not a thing to be very proud of.

That, in fact, it was carried on in order to prevent anything in the shape of a scare.

That what is now known is, I hear, of a nature to produce the great degree of alarm, in view of the fact that the measures to meet the trouble are now in good hands.

That one thing, however, is certain, and that is, something must be done to secure a closer supervision of the institution known as the Tung Wah Hospital.

That a full week of valuable time was lost by negligence on the part of some one, and the drought was not calculated to improve matters.

That it seems strange those officials responsible for the Public Health did not take precautionary measures, such as flushing and cleaning up, before the warning was sounded.

That the Medical Department and the Sanitary Board will now carry with them the best wishes of the entire community for their speedy triumph over this unwelcome visitor.

That the saying "Troubles never come singly" is unfortunately true in Hongkong, as shown by the visitation of disease and drought.

That the threatened water famine, recurring now with painful regularity every year, is bad enough in itself without any accompanying misfortune.

That man in authority should be the first to consider the welfare of the public good, and that his duty to do so, and there it ends, and no more need be said about it. As a public man I don't think, Mr. Whitehead, you care for any display of this kind of disease by some influential Chinese whose names appear in the Address.

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That the Water Authority would have succeeded better, in sustaining his official dignity, by answering at once the questions about the water supply, than he did by refusing to answer the reasonable questions put to him.

That the aggressive attitude sits not well upon any public servant, more especially at a crisis like the present.

That all personal considerations, and as much of official red-tape as possible, must now be sunk in meeting the present emergency.

That much difference of opinion exists as to the necessity for proclaiming Hongkong to be an affected district, i.e., affected by any formidable epidemic, endemic, or contagious disease.

That, unfortunately, as the law stands at present, the proclamation is the lever which moves the sanitary machine, and gives the necessary powers to deal with the disease in an effective manner.

That naturally opponents interested in the shipping of the Colony (who, whether it is not) are the best argument given to sustain the claim of a declaration of the Address. It is for this reason I want to explain to you—firstly, in business connections it hardly needs my comment, for your uprightness, courtesy and able management, you have the full confidence of the Chinese, and as proof of this you may observe that the business between your Bank and the Chinese has been increased from year to year for the past ten years; secondly, in the Legislative Council, although the questions you continuously raise for your friendship as well as for your valuable services rendered. Hence this Address, and you see it is aimed by all the leading Chinese compatriots, firms, and gentlemen of property. But as most of the signatories do not read nor understand the English language, some may ask how they came to know and appreciate your valuable services as representative of the Chamber of Commerce in the Legislative Council and your labours on behalf of the community and have deserved well of your fellow citizens of all nationalities.

That you will merit a still higher place in the long list of Hongkong Notabilities if your well-directed efforts to obtain for the Colony what has been granted to so many Dependencies of far less value and importance to the Empire, a full and fair measure of Local Self-Government. We beg of you to occupy as a small teapoyee of our gratitude and goodwill this Address, and the accompanying Services of Silver and Embroidered Silk Scroll. We wish you a pleasant passage to England and a speedy return to Hongkong, to resume your seat in the Legislative Council and your labours on behalf of the Bank, over which you will meet with a hearty welcome in England, and the thanks which the Directors and Shareholders of the Bank over which you have presided here for upwards of ten years undoubtedly owe to you for the one skill, and conspicuously ability you have displayed in dealing with your difficult and arduous task, and doing your duty to the community and have deserved well of your fellow citizens of all nationalities.

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the cost of the College, and it is wished to leave the matter to the Secretary of State.

That the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce revealed the fact that this influential institution, through its Committee, have discussed a large number of subjects of the greatest importance to the shipping and commercial communities in the Far East.

The Secretary will let the sites that had been thought of, was on Pokfulam Road and pointed it out to the Board.

The ground selected was the site above Shirley, formerly proposed as a site for a new goal.

That the vast amount of work brought to light in the annual report of the Chamber, and in the long and interesting speech of its Chairman, is almost too much to digest in one day.

That I should advise the Committee, when possible, to give to the public, through the press, instalments of the valuable records during the progress of the year, so that they may take the public into much to digest in one day.

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WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS.—The New York correspondent of the "Canton Gazette" writes:

"With the advent of spring bonnets, or hats, comes an unusual activity among the Women's Associations which grow more numerous and powerful. A very important question before the Sorosis was the proper sphere for woman's active employment outside the domain of her own home; ought she not to devote all of her energy to her family? Where she interferes with the labor of man, is not her assistance rather a curse than a blessing? It needs no argument to prove that for the past twenty years, notwithstanding the tremendous opposition, and I may say persecution, which she has met, she has steadily and bravely fought her way to the front; till to-day she has had in every portion of the civilized globe standing alongside of man all the learned professions, and in the severest trials and competitions bearing off the blue ribbon and the gold medal against odds. Yale after years of opposition led down its rusty bars; Harvard has wide her gates and bids her welcome. Columbia becomes her champion, and, farther on, she has won the love and reverence of her first female graduate by a splendid memorial window in its beautiful chapel, which will carry the name of the distinguished graduate to many generations to come."

"The arguments pro and con as to woman's proper sphere in the labor field were very brilliant and incisive, the majority believing that it was woman's duty and privilege to occupy all the domain she could, and if man was elbowed out of the way, there was no help for it. It was only a verification of the Darwinian theory of the survival of the fittest.

"One of the speakers, a married woman with a fine family of boys and girls, maintained that wifehood and motherhood was and ought to be the principal end and aim of woman's life, and to those two absorbing questions all others should be held subordinate. To this proposition there was a very emphatic and decided, no, no, no! for a considerable majority of the Sorosis have not yet put their heads in the matinette hoods."

"In a private conversation, one of the most talented sisters of that distinguished company was heard to say, 'I have no husband and no children, and I don't know that I care about having them. There are hundreds of thousands of women whose proper sphere is motherhood and wifehood, stronger than any other.' They were at home and some out to prove it; for they want children but not all the time, and the anxiety and trouble of taking care of them hardly worth the trouble in the scale in comparison with having some one to provide for their every day wants."

"There is another class to which this kind of sentimental bondage is intolerable, and who would go through any amount of suffering and self-sacrifice rather than endure it. 'To the highest type of happiness is independence; they don't want any one to provide for them; they would prefer to provide for themselves; they are satisfied to fight the battle of life alone, and it is to the determined stand made by women of this class which in this nia 19th century is revolutionizing the world.'

"There is one peculiar feature about the Sorosis, that is no matter how able any of its members advocate the excellence of motherhood and wifehood, when the question comes up of admitting men to the speculative advantages that the Sorosis Club affords, from the best to the lowest, they instantly jump to the proposition with both feet and crush it out of sight.

"At the conclusion of one of the addresses which strongly advocated the cause of the weaker sex (men), a prima-looking lady of about—well, no matter about her age, who looked as if she could tackle a cyclone and lay it on its back, shook her head very scornfully, and closing her lips so tight that there was hardly a sign of a mouth left, after a short pause burst out, 'No man in mine, I thank you, and that settled it.'

"The Professional Women's League had a very lively meeting this week, and as far as I can learn, it was very much a success. Both associations are composed exclusively of women, and many of whom are abundantly able to take care of themselves. The Sorosis is exclusive, and is inclined to be distasteful and aristocratic. The Professional Women's League is the embodiment of ideal democracy; with the Professional Women's League dollars don't count, except so far as they serve the purposes of charity, in the dispensing of which these worthy workers have expended many thousands of dollars, and expect to spend many thousands more. And when they wanted money they did not beg it; they went to work and earned it by hard and honest work, and this fact alone accounts for their phenomenal success. They had, as I said before, a very lively meeting this week, at which Miss Maud Banks read a paper on the right of woman, Miss Banks, the daughter of General N. P. Banks, was commanded at New Orleans, who was a member of the House of Representatives; she will be remembered as the Orlando in the League's performance of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It,' in which she made a marked success. Her address was received with unanimous applause, and in the business meeting which ensued Mrs Edwin Knowles, the treasurer, moved to admit men to the honorary privilege of the Association, believing that their co-operation would be of great advantage, but the idea met with instant opposition, and the more conservative would only admit that the time had not yet come for so radical a change.

THEY SPENT WITH HUMAN LIFE.

"All give you the plain facts in the case, and you shall help us to judge whether there was a

"It seems that some time in 1894—in the winter, no doubt—Mr. Strong, of Leicester, was taken down with influenza, often called the grip, and truly a strong grip it was when it once takes a hold. Well, I am glad to say was able to fight out the battle and get the best of it. But the best wasn't anything to brag of. The influenza hadn't exactly beaten Mr. Strong, but it had him in very bad condition, and he was weak and properly rippled up the thread of the story."

"His real didn't tempt him; the most savoury of dishes had been for our friend. He had lost his appetite, and in the long run a man had better lose his appetite. He forced down something of course, but it gave him such a pain in the chest that he wished he hadn't swallowed it again. He had to give up all his usual sports, and sleep—about eight nights. This as everybody knows is the straight road to the graveyard, through the madhouse. Lots of people are making that trip all the time. We must eat and we must sleep. How don't we are done for. Neutral pain, too, made matters worse for Mr. Strong. He saw a doctor, and what did the doctor do? Told me what the patient wanted to hear, and that was to give him all kinds of strengthening medicines, but none of them did me any good, and I continued to suffer for much after month."

"Just what we might have expected. Mr. Strong further says: 'In October, 1890, my friend, Mr. James Webster, of New York, Leicestershire, advised me to make a medical visit to Dr. George Sykes and I followed his advice. The first consultation gave great relief,

and I began to digest my food and to have an appetite; and after I had used those effects I was quite another man. I was completely cured, all my aches and pains left me, my strength returned, and I have been all right ever since. What astonished me most was the rapidity with which the grip was making it known to me. You still have to publish my case for the benefit of others. Yours truly, (Signed) W. STRONG, 44, East Street, Leicester, December 8th, 1891.'

"Now, there was a mistake in this matter, and it was not a common mistake-made. It is a well-known and hoary blunder."

"The doctor, Dr. Mr. Strong, gave me all the details of his practice, and remember what I'm going to tell you now: remember it for the hour of your own infirmities and pain: There is no such thing as strengthening medicine, neither in the earth nor in the water, which are under the earth. This is the truth; all the high-class doctors know it. As for the rest—well, then, the less said about them the better."

"The doctor, Dr. Mr. Strong, 'strengthening medicines,' and he happened to him? Why, he 'continued to suffer after month.' Did you ever see a horse made stronger and fitter by spurs and leather whips? leaving off the oats and hay? I think you haven't. And that is what 'strengthening medicines' do, and all they do. So-called tonics are like making a sick man walk and fast by kicking him at every other step."

"Nothing that I ever heard ever done, and here is the perpetual success, and victory of Mother Nature's Syrup: it cures the system of disease poison and taints. Natural sweet and free. The stomach then cries, 'Feed me,' and so power and health come back like the green grass after a shower. Do you see? Mother Nature proclaims, 'I destroy diseases.'

"The disease is indigestion and dyspepsia. Mr. Strong had it, and was badly treated. Should you have it, try the Syrup first, not last, for I have told you why."

EXPERIENCE.—The appearance of the two most talented sisters of that distinguished company was heard to say, 'I have no husband and no children, and I don't know that I care about having them. There are hundreds of thousands of women whose proper sphere is motherhood and wifehood, stronger than any other.'

London, March 1892.

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(Dr. J. C. THOMSON, F.R.C.P., F.R.S.,

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John C. THOMSON,

Hon. Sec. to the College.

Hongkong, February 26, 1894.

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Hongkong, May 9, 1894. 824

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